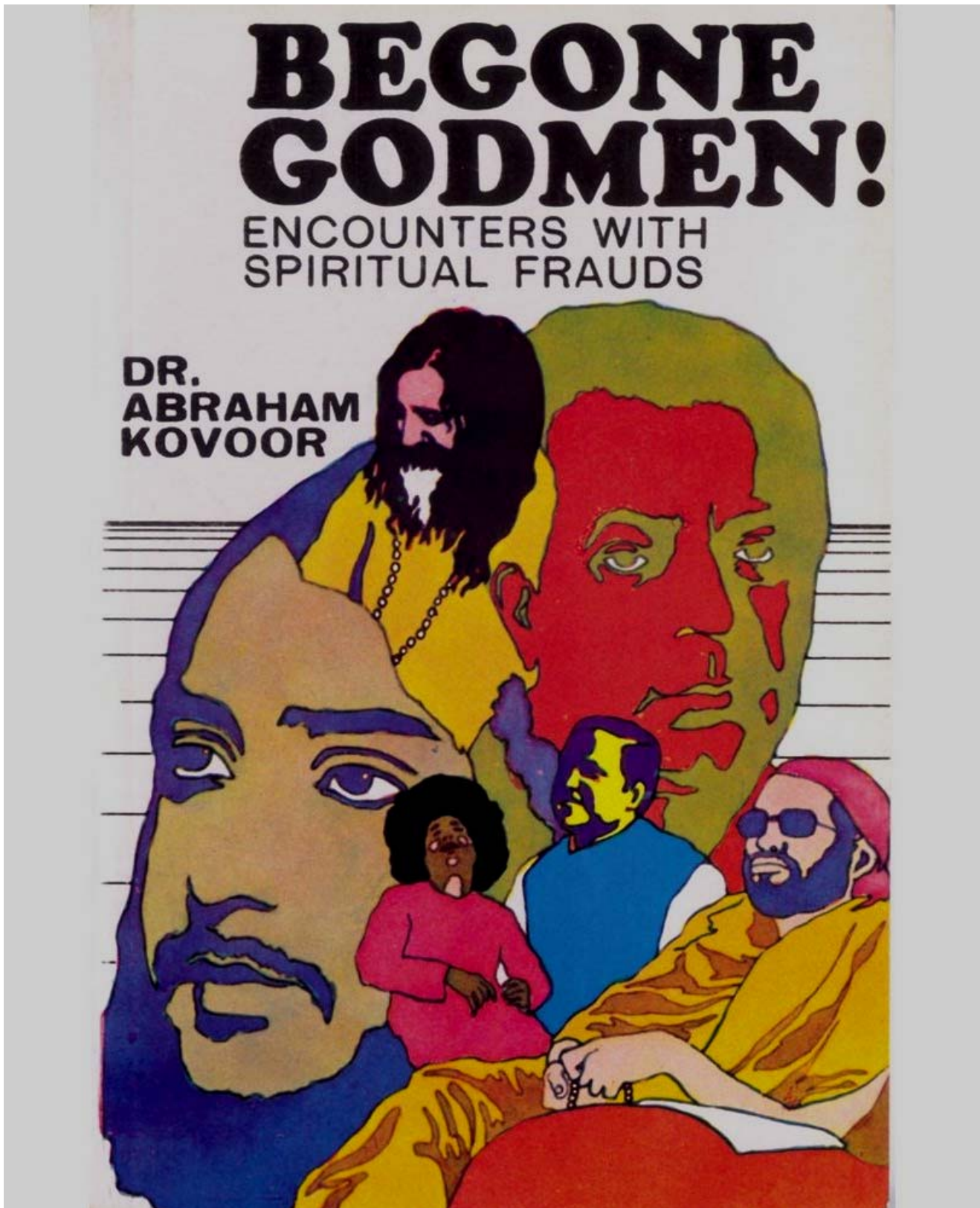




Chapter 11

BIBLE IS A DANGEROUS MORAL GUIDE

THE All-Ceylon Buddhist Congress is insistent that religious instruction in schools is extremely necessary to guide the youths of this country in moral and ethical ways. The leaders of the diverse Christian sects also are equally insistent about teaching Bible to the Christian students.

I am writing this to show how dangerous the book the so-called Holy Bible is as a guide to moral and ethical training. Millions of Christians all over the world believe, without any valid evidence, that the Bible is the 'Word of God'. When there is no evidence that God exists, how can it be accepted that the Bible is the word of God? Even if it is proved that there is a God, the fact, would not in any way support the claim that he inspired the Bible.

Bible is not the only book that is claimed to be inspired by a god. Muslims claim that their sacred book—the Koran—also was inspired by their god, Allah.

The Moral precepts of Bible, the justice of its laws, its historical inaccuracies, the inexactitude of its science, and the absurdity of its philosophy makes this book not acceptable to the 20th century man. Why talk about the inspiration of the Bible when we know what it teaches is not true? The truth is that the doctrine of inspiration is a myth invented by the Jewish and Christian priests. That the Bible is a human creation, altogether without divine authority is proved by the fact that in the field of morals it is a very dangerous guide.

Let us have a look at some of its moral teachings.

HONESTY

Truth-telling is one of the most precious of virtues, we cherish. But the Bible upholds deception and lying. In Jeremiah, chapter 20, verse 7, the writer complains, "O God thou hast deceived me". In chapter 4, verse 10, Jeremiah has charged God deception. He says, "Ah, Lord God, surely thou hast deceived the people of Jerusalem".

A striking instance of the divine falsehood is found in the 22nd chapter of 1st King. There it is said, "And the Lord said we shall persuade Ahab through a lying spirit. Behold the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of the prophets". No sensible person will advocate the teaching of these godly deception to the children during their impressionable age. In an article like this it is not possible to cite the numerous falsehoods and inaccuracies of the Bible. The story of the deluge as given in the book of Genesis is full of falsehood and absurdities. In chapter 7 of Genesis it is said, "it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. It rained 15. cubits high and the mountains were covered".

A cubit being 1 foot and 6 inches, it means that the flood was 22½ ft. deep. Mount Everest is 29,002 ft. high, and Mount Ararat 17,260 ft. What a big falsehood it is for the god-inspired Bible to tell us that 22½ ft. of water covered these mountains! Can any sensible person believe the biblical lie that the giant animals of the earth like dinosaurs, mammoth and elephants got into the ark through the single door-cum-window 18 inches square?

Now let us look at the New Testament, a book claimed to be spotless for veracity. In the third chapter of Romans, St. Paul offered this astounding justification for falsehood. He says, "For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory".

In second Corinthians Paul further acknowledges his use of falsehood in his teaching. He says, "Bing crafty, I caught you with guile". According to Paul there is nothing wrong with lying when it is done in the service of God. But moral conduct demands truthfulness. A book that upholds lying and falsehood definitely is a dangerous moral guide.

How dishonest it was on the part of God to have asked Moses to tell a deliberate lie to Pharaoh. In chapter 5 of Exodus we read, "Moses and Aaron came and said unto Pharaoh thus said the Lord God of Israel, let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. Three days journey into the wilderness to make sacrifice unto me". Here we see a helpless god trying to get his own people out of slavery by telling a deliberate lie to Pharaoh. were the Israelites really going out just for three days, or for good never to return?

The world needs honesty no less than truth. The so-called Holy Bible teaches one to become a cheat, a thief and a despoiler of fellow beings! In the 3rd chapter of Exodus we have God's specific instruction to rob one's neighbour. He says, "I will give this people of Israel favour in the sight of the Egyptians, and it will come to pass that when you go, ye will not go empty handed. Every woman amongst you shall borrow of her neighbour's jewels of silver and jewels of gold, and raiments; and ye shall put them upon yours sons and daughters, and ye shall spoil the Egyptians". The 12th chapter says, "And the children of Israel did according to the word of god, and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver and jewels of gold, and raiments; and the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they ruined the Egyptians."

Are we to teach our boys and girls how to rob under the pretext of borrowing? Even if it is moral in the opinion of god of the Bible, we in Sri Lanka should not allow our children to be taught such immoral ideas. How can we expect honesty and truth among Christians who are taught such immoralities through their scriptures?

It appears the god of Bible has no hesitation to make false promises. In Genesis 46, Verse 3 God is said to have spoken to Israel. (Jacob), "I am the God of thy father, fear not to go down into Egypt, for I will there make thee a great nation". In reality what happened? Instead of becoming a great nation, his descendents became slaves in Egypt. Is this Jehovah and omniscient?

SLAVERY

One of the worst degrading chapters in human history is slavery and slave trade. Slavery denied to millions of men and women the right to live as human beings. It filled human lives with atrocities of the worst kind. Before the Bible was written the inhabited parts of the earth was blighted with slavery. The Bible came and what did it have to say about this appalling curse which reduced human beings to the level of beasts? We are told that the Bible is the message of God, of wisdom and love. Does it sound a clarion call to human freedom? On the other hand it only approved slavery. In the 21st chapter of Exodus, God gives the advice to the slave holder, "If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve, and in the seventh, he shall go out free for nothing. If he were married, then his wife shall go with him. If his master has given him a wife and she has borne him sons and daughters, the wife and her children shall be his master's property, and he shall go out by himself. And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my wife and my children; I will not go out free, then his master shall bring him unto the judges, and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall serve him for ever". Thus,

according to biblical justice if a slave wants to be with his own wife and children, he must be a slave throughout his life. God allows the slave holder to kill his slave and go unpunished. In the same chapter it is said, "If a master smites his servant or his maid with a rod, and he died under his hand, he shall be punished. Notwithstanding, if he continues to live a day or two, the master shall not be punished, for he is his money". Can a civilized man accept the teaching that one man is another man's money? The New Testament supports the Old Testament in binding the shackles to the limbs of the slave. In Ephesians 6, Verse 5, St. Paul says, "servants, be obedient to them that are your masters". The slave is commanded to cringe and crawl trembling at his master's feet.

BIGOTRY AND INTOLERANCE

We in the 20th century fight for political and religious freedom. But God denies such freedoms. The Bible prescribes death penalty for any who dares suggest a change of religious belief. What could be more cruel than what we read in the 13th chapter of Deuteronomy? "If thy brother or thy son or thy daughter or thy wife of thy bosom entice thee secretly saying let us go and serve another God, thou shalt surely kill him or her, Thou shalt stone him with stones till he dies". Thus, worshippers of all gods other than Jehovah must be killed. This type of commandments are the root cause of most of the massacres taking place in the name of religions.

There are some Christians who say that the New Testament is in favour of religious liberty and tolerance. The truth is that the New Testament is as intolerable as the old. In Galatians chapter 1, verse 9, St. Paul declares, "If any man preach any other gospel unto you than ye have received, let him be accursed". Jesus the so called son of God says in St. Luke chapter 19, "But those mine enemies, which would not, that I should reign far over them, bring hither and slay them before me". In Mark he says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, others shall be damned". Down the ages, Christians brutalized the intellectuals supported by biblical commandments. The church was eager to save the souls of men, but there was no salvation except for the docile believers. The duty of the church was to force all men to believe. It was an act of mercy to torture the body of the unbeliever in the hope of saving his soul hereafter.

PERSECUTION

No power of imagination can conceive of the pain that has been inflicted on innocent men and women because the Bible is a persecuting book, and because, therefore, Christianity has ever been a persecuting faith. For ages Christians exhausted their ingenuity in devising ways and means of torture. Bible was their guide to torture. Following the teaching of the Bible has led to the massacre of millions.

CANNIBALISM

What can be more revolting to civilized men than cannibalism? Though the savages of Africa and Pacific islands of dark ages ate the flesh of their enemies, killed in their tribal warfare, God-inspired Bible recommended eating the flesh of one's loved ones. In the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy it is said, "And thou shalt eat the flesh of thy sons and daughters. The flesh of children, the tender and delicate women among you". In the book of Jeremiah chapter 19, it is said, "And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their

daughters, and they shall eat every one, the flesh of his friend". The same horrible thing is again repeated in the book of Leviticus in chapter 26.

MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

Nothing could be more wicked than the fiendish command of Jehovah in the 15th chapter of the 1st Samuel, "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, slay both men and women, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass" In Deuteronomy chapter 20, God commands, "Thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth".

If it is moral for Jehovah to order the destruction of all living things in Canaan indiscriminately, how can we blame the Americans, who worship the same God, for killing all living beings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or for adopting chemical warfare in Viet Nam?

Christian God's method of punishing the wrong-doers is by killing their infant children, and allowing their wives to be ravished by others. In 2nd Samuel chapter 12, God says, "I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wife before thine eyes and give her unto thy neighbour and he shall lie with thy wife to thy presence and of all Israel". Worse still, if there can be anything worse, is God's command to parents to murder their stubborn children. In Deuteronomy chapter 21, the law stipulates, "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, who will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of the city, and they shall say, this son is stubborn and rebellious, and all the men of his city shall stone him with stones till he dies".

PORNOGRAPHY AND SEX PERVERSION

No literature in the world can be worse than the Holy Bible for pornography and sex immorality. According to Jesus Christ it is moral to cohabit with one's brother's widow if she has no children. In Mark chapter 12 we read, "If a man's brother dies and leaves a widow behind him. and leaves no child, his brother should take the widow, and raise up sees unto his brother".

Although the Jews are strict adherent of the Old Testament, it is indeed a healthy sign that the present day Jews of Israel are able to see the immoral aspect of Jehovah's commandments. In January 1972, a 41-year-old-Israeli, Nissin Sharabi, was jailed in Tel Aviv for marrying Rivaka, the childless widow of his brother, in strict obedience to Jehovah's command.

Though God was in favour of a person cohabiting with his brother's widow, he did not favour parent giving their daughters in marriage. In 1st Corinthians chapter 7, God says, "He that giveth his own virgin daughter in marriage doeth well, but, he that giveth her not in marriage doeth better".

When Onan was compelled to cohabit with his brother's widow, he was reluctant to give birth to an illegitimate child. So he practiced coitus interruptus. God therefore killed him not for his incestual act, but for his act of withdrawal. In chapter 7 of 1st Corinthians God commands, "If any man thinketh that he behaveth unseemly towards his virgin daughter, if she be past the

flower of her age, let him satisfy his need. He sinneth not". Should we try to spread incest in the country by teaching Bible in our schools?

God encouraged prostitution and adultery. In Hosea chapter 4, God tells his chosen people, "I will not punish your daughter when they commit whoredom, nor your wives when they commit adultery".

While indecent exposure in public is a punishable offence in civilized countries, God's method of punishing women was to make her stand naked before the public! In Isaiah chapter 3, it is said, "And the Lord will lay bare their secret parts".

According to Jehovah who created the women as the result of a second thought, women are mere chattels meant for the sexual gratification of men, and to be discarded if and when they cease to give them enough satisfaction. In Deuteronomy chapter 21, God commands, "And seest thou among the captives a beautiful woman, and if thou has a desire unto her, you would take her to thee as wife, thou shalt bring her home, and after that go unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife. And it shall be that of thou have no delight in her, then thou shalt let her go wither she will".

In all the aggressive wars waged by the Israelites against the inhabitants of Canaan, God insisted that they brought all the virgins alive, and have him also a share. In Numbers chapter 31, God commands, "Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him, save all the virgins and keep them alive for yourselves". The Israelites strictly acted according to God's instruction. They brought back thirty-two thousand virgins, and have 32 of them as a tribute to their God. Thus God's tribute in virgin women was one per thousand! Jehovah also seem to be fond of feasting his eyes on the nude figure of his own creatures! In 2nd Samuel chapter 6, we read about King David, the man after God's own heart, performing a naked dance before women, just to please Jehovah!

GENOCIDE

Hitler's persecution and mass massacre of the Jews, and Yahya Khan's genocide in East Pakistan pale into insignificance when compared with the atrocities and genocides committed by Jehovah against the Egyptians and the Canaanites. Even when Pharaoh was willing to send away the Israelites, God made Pharaoh's heart hard to change his mind, not once but several times. Why did this so-called merciful God do such a treacherous act? Just to find an excuse to kill more and more innocent women and children, and even their domestic animals? What crime these animals did do?

If there was a war crime tribunal during Biblical days, civilized man would have convicted the God of the Bible as the worst criminal the world had ever seen. If the Deluge story in the book of Genesis is true, it would make Jehovah guilty of the very worst crime ever committed. Why did he destroy all the innocent men, women and children who had not sinned against him? Why did he destroy all the animals and vegetable lives on earth? What possible harm could have they done against him? He blamed everyone and everything for his own failure.

Can any civilized society allow their children to be taught in schools to hate their parents, their brothers and sisters or to create discord in their families? Are we to teach them

peaceful ways or violence? In Mathew chapter 10, Jesus Christ says, "I came not to send peace, but sword. I came to send man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law". In St. Luke, chapter 22, Jesus advises his disciples to sell their cloaks and buy swords.

Teaching Bible in our schools, being extremely dangerous, should be banned by the state. If allowed, it might make our youths grow up into murderers, rapists, cannibals and immoral fellows of the worst type.

While civilized man is abolishing capital punishment, "eye for an eye" is the law of God. In 2nd King chapter 19, we read, "And it came to pass that night the Angel of the Lord went forth and smote the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand, and in the morning they were all dead corpses". If Jesus Christ could kill a fig tree for no fault of it, what kind of Justice man can expect from him or his father Jehovah? Who can be more wicked than a God who takes pleasure in human and animal sacrifices?

SEAT OF EVIL

Why should the Satan or the Devil be blamed for evil in this world, when God himself accepts that he is the creator of evil? In Isaiah chapter 45, God says, "I form the light and create darkness. I make peace and create evil".

According to the well-known Bibliologist Marshall J. Gauvin, no other book in the world has such perverting influence on man than the so-called Holy Bible. Lying, cheating, stealing, slavery, murder, cannibalism, genocide, incest, prostitution, adultery, nudism, pornography, sexual permissiveness, tyranny and torture are some of the crimes the Bible sanctions and defends.

A reformist Christian priest once confessed to me that he has to waste a lot of time on Saturdays searching through the Bible to select suitable passages, free from obscene, immoral and unethical teachings to be read in his church at Sunday Services!

Considered as a moral guide, Bible is the most dangerous book in the world. There is no easier way to get into prison than by following the teachings of this inspired religious book. A perverted book of this nature should be kept away from the reach of our youth. Those Christian apologists who clamour for the teaching of Bible in our schools should read their Bible themselves before they pass their demand.